

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1369

By Todd

A RESOLUTION to recognize William L. Ray on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, William L. "Bill" Ray is one such estimable person who has served with distinction as the Assistant Vice President of External Affairs for AT&T's Memphis operations since 1998; prior to that, he rendered sterling service as Assistant Vice President of Sales for BellSouth Business Systems in Louisville, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, having worked assiduously, and in a variety of positions, at AT&T for forty illustrious years, Bill Ray is taking a much-deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, an active and highly respected citizen of his community, Mr. Ray contributes his time and talents to numerous boards, including Leadership Memphis, Liberty Bowl, Memphis in May, Memphis Rotary Club, Memphis Regional Chamber, Memphis Better Business Bureau, the Memphis Division of Bancorp South, and Collierville Education Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ray has demonstrated his astute leadership skills as the 2007 President of the AutoZone Liberty Bowl, Chairman of the 2005 United Way General Campaign, President of the Memphis Rotary Club, and Chairman of the Board of the Collierville Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Bill Ray was inducted into the 2008 Memphis City Schools Alumni Hall of Fame on April 26, 2008, was awarded the 2003 Leadership Award by the Corporate Volunteer Council, and received the Rotarian Paul Harris Fellow; and

WHEREAS, a native of Memphis, Mr. Ray is a 1967 graduate of Kingsbury High School where he was a member of the distinguished "Rat Pack," a group formed in the early 1960s that continues to gather today; and

WHEREAS, students inducted into the "Rat Pack" had to meet the stringent requirements of being in the top 100 percent of their class and willing to wear a t-shirt sporting their logo, a big rat, on the front; and

WHEREAS, Bill Ray exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, his many professional achievements aside, Mr. Ray is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his wife, the former Nancy Coppola of Orlando, Florida; together, they have six children and seven grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, he has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to William L. Ray our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement, as we commend his singular contributions to AT&T, and wish him every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.